REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 12 and 15-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cairo. Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryan. Claims 7-9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Sabol. Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Bampton. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Bampton and Sabol.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph:

Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the term "nickel-boron" and to substitute the term "boron". No new matter is entered, since boron is the active melting point depressant constituent of nickel-boron. This amendment renders moot the rejections under 35 USC 112 first and second paragraphs and eliminates the need to consider these rejections upon appeal.

Conclusion

Entry of the claim amendments presented herein are respectfully requested in order to place the claims into better form for consideration upon appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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